

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** June 9, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on June 2, 2006

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Bharat Mathur  
Acting Regional Administrator

Norman R. Niedergang  
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The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Judge Approves Remedy Changes (SVE Systems Operating), Midco I and Midco II Superfund Sites, Gary, Indiana**

The changes to the soil and groundwater treatment called for in the Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for these sites dated September 2004, have been constructed, and are now in operation. In addition, the changes to the remedy were approved by the Judge of the United States District Court on May 3, 2006.

At Midco I, the changes include construction of a groundwater barrier wall around the source area, dewatering the source area more than 12 feet, and construction of a soil vapor extraction system (SVE) to treat source area soils. The SVE system includes 31 vertical SVE wells with a design flow rate of about 1,500 cubic feet per minute (cfm), and off-gas treatment with a thermal oxidizer. The groundwater barrier wall was constructed in November - December 2003; dewatering was conducted during 2004 and 2005; the SVE system was constructed from June 2005 through January 2006; and, the SVE system started-up and initial monitoring was conducted from February through April 2006.

At Midco II, the ESD changes include construction of an air sparge (AS) system, and an SVE system to treat source area soils and groundwater. The SVE/AS system includes 68 vertical air

sparge wells within a design total flow rate of about 700 cfm, 24 horizontal SVE wells having a total length of 4460 feet and a design total flow rate of 3,050 cfm, and off-gas treatment with a thermal oxidizer. The SVE/AS system was constructed from November 2004 through November 2005, and started-up and commissioned from December 2005 through March 2006.

Contact: Richard Boice (312-886-4740)

### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

#### **Food Defense Exercise "Operation North Star", St. Paul, Minnesota**

On May 18, 2006, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Verneta Simon participated in "Operation North Star" a tabletop exercise in St. Paul, Minnesota, designed to simulate a food defense emergency. Participants in the exercise included State, County, and local agriculture and public health agencies, and primary Federal response agencies, like the Food and Drug Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Emergency Management Agency, and United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). This exercise involved using the Incident Command System (ICS) and the latest Homeland Security Presidential Directive, Federal Food and Agriculture Decontamination and Disposal Roles and Responsibilities.

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#### **5th Annual PRP Search Conference, St. Louis, Missouri**

During the week of May 15, 2006, members of Emergency Enforcement Services Section, Remedial Enforcement Services Section, and Remedial Response Section 5 attended the 5th Annual Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Search Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

Several staff from the Region made presentations at the conference.

Tom Marks provided an overview of the Region 5 Superfund Program's Superfund Alternative Site process. Lance Vlcek participated in the group presentations on groundwater sites and title searches. His presentations focused on the PRP search efforts at Lammers Barrel and effective approaches to different PRP searches. Sheri Bianchin, along with representatives from Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance (OECA) and Office of General Counsel (OGC), spoke about institutional controls. Sheri Bianchin spoke about Region 5's implementation efforts relative to the national institutional controls strategy and

provided information regarding how to properly evaluate institutional controls.

Approximately 100 people attended from other Regions, Headquarters, several States, Indian tribes, and other Federal Agencies.

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